

THE MAN FROM TEXAS

OR

THE PROMISE OF MARRIAGE GIRL

PROPERTY OF JOHNNIE SPEER.



# THE MAN FROM TEXAS

## CHARACTERS

ANNETTE IRWIN ..... Ingenue  
BILLIE WILKES ..... Soubrette  
BOB WILLIAMS ..... Lead  
OLLIE FRIEDMAN ..... Genteel heavy  
CONNERS ..... STRAIGHT  
TOBY TODDLEMAN ..... Comedy

## PROPS

One table with drawer  
Two dining room chairs  
One settee  
Two stand tables  
One carpet and rug  
Two vases and flowers  
Three revolvers, one sure fire  
Large bunch of stage money

## Set

Table D L drawer to the rear, chair at rear of table and chair R of table, settee D R one vase on table and one on stand R. of C. D. Carpet and rug to suit. Open with money in the drawer.

## Note

Vase on table can be lamp chimney with white paint on it so it will break easy.



ACT ONE

Billie

(enter at Rise C D Ollie is seated at table) What are you doing, Ollie, counting up to see how much you owe yourself?

Ollie

(seated at table) Don't try to be funny. Business is bad enough without having to listen to your grave-yard comedy.

Billie

Huh, what's the matter with out little Ollie this morning, get a mean hang over from last night?

Ollie

No, but while you're on the hang over subject, let me tell you a bit of news I heard this morning. A friend of mine that belongs to the Police Department told me that inspector Connors is wise to us, and that he made the crack that he was going to clean out every cabaret in the city.

Billie

Oh he did, eh? You had better be a little careful or you will be in the same fix that Murphy is if you stay with it very long.

Ollie

Oh I don't know.

Billie

Well I do. I told him the same thing, but he wouldn't listen to me. So one day a bunch of reformers stepped in unexpected and found every thing wide open. The dance hall was full, red whiskey was sitting every where, and it was long till Murphy's place of fun was no more.

Ollie

Well, they won't get me!

Billie

That is what Murphy said, but you see what happened,. Now you better take my advice make a big killing and get out of the game.

Ollie

I have made the killing.

Billie

What do you mean?

Ollie

That I have the most beautiful little bunch of paper currency that ever left Washington never to be there.

Billie

Counterfeit, eh?

Ollie

Well, you don't need to shout it to the housetops.

Billie

Well, how much have you got?

Ollie

Enough to put us on easy street if we can get some one to show it for us.

Billie

I know the very guy. I have a date with him tonight. He is coming here.

Ollie

Who is he?

Billie

A boob from the West.

Ollie

Has he any money?

Billie

You see, I had supper with him last night, and he got rather chummy. Said he was the only son, this is first trip to the city and before he leaves he wants to see Chicago.



Ollie

If his bank roll, lasts, he can see it.

Billie

He has been here a few days and his bank roll is nearly gone.

Ollie

Good, when he comes tonight introduce him to me and I'll do the rest.

Toby

(enters C. D.) I walked right in!

Ollie

I see you did.

Toby

That's the way we do at home; we walk right in.

Ollie

Well, what do you want?

Toby

What cha got---I mean I will take a glass of butter-milk and a piece of punkin' pie.

Billie

(laughing) Oh, Ollie, he thinks your cabaret is a beanery.

Ollie

You're in the wrong place; this is no restuerant.

Toby

Well gol darn it aint it got a sign out there that says cafe on the winder?

Ollie

Cafe?

Toby

Yes, cafe, Judge Hiram told me when I got to the city and I was hungry to look for a sign that said, Cafe, and I seen that one on the dinder and I thought that I could get something to eat.

Ollie

We serve supper between the hours of eleven at night and two in the morning.

Toby

Two in the morning? (bus) Holy jumping gee hossy fat you don't stay up that late do you? I aint been up later than nine o'clock for the last two years only once, and that was when Bill Deal's cow lost her calf, and she hollered so durn loud that I couldn't sleep, and I had to get up and find it fer her, and I didn't get over the disapation for nearly a week.

Billie

What a wonderful green onion and already to be picked!

Toby

(bus) Where is it? Where is it? I aint had one since I left home.

Ollie

You will excuse me? Bill will entertain you, I would have to laugh if I stayed here and I don't want to laugh for I have a cracked lip. (exit D L.)

Toby

Well, you will get a cracked head if you fool with me. Say who is that critter? (X R to Billie)

Billie

That is Ollie Friedman, he is proprietor of this place.

Toby

well I don't give a darn who he is, he don't need to get so smart with me. Say who is Billie?

Billie

I am Billie. (sits R. end of settee)

Toby

Aw go on! You aint Billie!



Billie

Yes I am, that is my name. Won't you sit down? (bus)

Toby

Why that is a boy's name, You are the first girl that I ever seen that had the name of Billie.

Billie

Oh there are lots of girls in Chicago that have the name of Billie What is your name?

Toby

My name is Toby, Toby Toddelman, and I live in the town of Millywog, Jefferson County, New York State.

Billie

You do? Do you like Chicago, Mr. Toddleman?

Toby

Aw call me Toby it sounds more home-like.

Billie

All right. (laughs)

Toby

What is your first name---I mean your last name?

Billie

Wilkes---Billie Wilkes.

Toby

Gee, thats a perty name. You know I like you.

Billie

(laughs) Oh you do? What makes you like me?

Toby

Cause you are always laughing and when a girl laughs, it shows that she is light headed---I mean light hearted.

Billie

I am glad you like me, Mr. Toddleman.

Toby

Aw call me Toby. (rise X C D) I guess I better go.

Billie

Oh are you going so soon?

Toby

No I am going to my uncle's place.

Billie

Then you have an uncle in Chicago?

Toby

No he lives in the rubarbs---I mean subarbs.

Billie

(laughs Rise X to Toby ) You better wait until evening and see our wonderful Dancer Annette, see that is her picture there. (points to picture on wall)

Toby

Gee, whiz is that her, I thought it was a terbaccer sign.

Billie

(laughs) Yes, that is her, Mr. Toddleman.

Toby

Aw call me Toby!

Billie

All right, Toby, but you better stay and see her.

Toby

Does she come out in front of people dressed like that?

Billie

Hmmm! You ought to see her!

Toby

(bus) Good lord no- --I couldn't look our minister in the face for a month if I stayed, but I would like to see her--

Billie

Why here she comes now. You can see her but not in her dancing clothes.



Ann  
Dear old Killowog! I wish I was back there.

Toby  
Well gol darn it why don't you go back? The trains aint stopped running, have they?

Ann  
No, Toby, you don't understand, I can't go back now, I can never go back.

Ollie  
(enter D/ L.) Are you here yet?

Toby  
NO, I'll be here a week from Tuesday.

Ollie  
We'll excuse you.

Toby  
Hey?

Ollie  
Yes, that's what the horses eat. I said you'll be excused.

Toby  
Have I done anything I shouldn't ?

Ollie  
No, but you might, now get out.

Ann  
Ollie, this is---

Ollie  
Yes, I know; Billie put me wise. Did you hear what I said? Get out!

Toby  
My hearing aint bad. I'll go but I am coming back for I promised Billie I'd come back and see her, good bye Annie. (exit C)

Ollie  
(exits C D, after him)

Ann  
I don't believe I have a friend in the world.

Bob  
(enters C. D) Oh yes you have, Miss.

Ann  
Oh did you wish to see some one?

Bob  
Yes, I have an appointment with the other little lady, Miss Billie.

Ann  
I will call her for you. (rise, starts to door R. U.)

Bob  
(stops her) Don't trouble yourself, Miss, I would rather talk to you if you don't mind.

Ann  
Why---a---what will we talk about?

Bob  
About you, Miss.

Ann  
I am afraid there isn't much about me that would interest you.

Bob  
Oh yes, there is. You see I asked the door man about you, and he told me I had better keep away from you or you would tell me where to head in at. He said you never talked to anybody, but I aint use to talking to girls, Miss, except my mother, so you see I came here to see Miss Billie, thinking that I might get to see you.

Ann  
The door-man is right; I never talk to any men,

Bob  
I have been here several times to see you dance, and I knew you were lonesome so I made up my mind to see you.



Ann

But what made you think I was lonesome?

Bob

Because when you were dancing around with that big white light following you around you would never smile, and every body else seemed to be happy. Then when you were through you would sit by the window all alone, and you would look out into empty space, away off some where as if you wanted some one to come along and say "Howdy!" So I just made up my mind that I was going to speak to you.

Ann

You are right I did want some one---some one to call friend.

Bob

I'll be your friend, Miss---but---a where is your mother?

Ann

My mother is dead. (cries)

Bob

There dern it I made you cry. I wish I hadn't said that. I had better be going.

Ann

No don't go I seem to want to talk to you, you seem different from the rest.

Bob

Maybe it's my Stetson hat.

Ann

No it isn't your hat, but I have a story I would like to tell you if care to hear it.

Bob

Sure, Miss, I would be glad to listen to it.

Ann

Once there was a girl in a small town in New York state. She was respected by her friends and loved by her parents. One day she met a man from a big city whom she liked very much. He painted her a picture of the great white way---a picture she always wanted to see. He asked her to come to the city and be his wife. He said he would make her happy. He promised her everything, and he has broken every promise he made her. He never intended to do anything he said. Now all in the world that girl has is a memory of her home and her friend---the memory of a heart broken mother and an unforgiving father. (cry)

Bob

Go on finish your story, Miss.

Ann

There is no more to tell. Her heart is breaking day by day.

Bob

You are the little girl, aint you, Miss?

Ann

Yes---now what have you to say?

Bob

I say you need "mother'n", Miss, you need "Mother'n" more than any body I ever knew. Away out there on a ranch in West Texas there is a dear old lady. She is my mother, Miss. She would be glad to have you. Now I have money enough to buy two tickets back to Midland west Texas---will you go?

Ann

I I cann not go.

Bob

You don't think I lied to you, Miss, when I told you that I had a mother out there

Ann

No, but what would your mother say when you brought a cabaret girl home with you.



Bob  
She wouldn't know what that was, and even if she did she wouldn't say a word. Why as big as I am, every night she takes me in her arms, and kisses me good night. Just as she use to do when I was a kid.

Ann  
But what would your friends say?

Bob  
It don't make no difference to them. The people out there don't care what a person has been it is what they are today that counts to them. Now will you go?

Ann  
No I cannot, for Ollie Friedman the man that owns this place is the man who took me away from my home. He would never let me go.

Bob  
Do you love him, Miss?

Ann  
Love him? No---I despise him---I despise myself! (rises turns back to Bob)

Bob  
Then there is only one thing to do. Will you marry me?

Ann  
Why---er---I--

Bob  
I knew that I would take your breath away when I asked you, but I mean it. Will you be my wife?

Ann  
After all I told you---do you still want me to be your wife?

Bob  
Yes for I realize that you haven't had a chance in life, I want to make you happy.

Ann  
You are the first man that ever asked me to be his wife and really meant it.

Bob  
Then let me be the last one to ask you, Miss.

Ann  
But what about Ollie?

Bob  
Do you think he would interfere?

Ann  
I am sure of it.

Bob  
Then there is only one thing left to do, that is to marry you before we go and take you as my wife Will you go?

Ann  
Yes, Mr --

Bob  
(throws his hat in the air and yells) Whoopee! (embrace) Excuse me, Miss, I guess I lost my head for a minute.

Ann  
Just think I've promised to marry a man and I don't even know his name!

Bob  
Bob, Williams, Miss.

Ollie  
(enter D L.) Hello, Annette, who is your friend?

Ann  
Mr. Williams, this is Mr. Friedman.

Ollie  
Mr. Williams, I am glad to know you,



Bob

I am sorry, Mister, but I can't say the same to you.

Ollie

Well what do you know about that? A boob from the sticks trying to high tone me?

Bob

I am not trying to hi tone you mister, but I don't want anything to do with you that's all.

Ann

Mr. Williams, will you leave us a few minutes? I want to talk to Friedman.

Bob

I'll go out, Mister, but be careful you don't say anything to that little girl you wouldn't want your own sister to hear, somebody might hear you. (exit C. D.)

Ann

Ollie, I want to explain---

Ollie

What's the game?

Ann

There never will be no more game.

Now--what are you talking about?

Ann

I am through that is what I am talking about.

Ollie

Through---what do you mean through?

Ann

I am through with everything around here, with this life, and you!

Ollie

Oh that's it, eh? I suppose your friend from Texas has told you what a shame it is the life you are leading here, and you have listened to him too. I never thought you would fall for a boob like he is.

Ann

Call him what you might; he is a man and not a cur like you-

Ollie

(takes vase from table to strike Ann) why damned you, I'll---

Bob

(enters C. D. fires shot, Ollie drops it and breaks it) I told you some body might hear you. (X D R to Ann)

Toby

(enters C. D.) Say who is doing all that darn shooting around here?

Bob

Shut up. Come, Miss. (starts with Ann)

Ollie

No, that girl stays here, but you get out, understand? You and that damned gun of yours will have all the coppers in town down here.

Billie

(enters C. D.) Connors is here, he says he is looking for some counterfeit money that was brought here yesterday.

Ollie

(bus) quick get it out of that drawer, and when that boob turns his back put it in his pocket. (to Toby) What do you want?

Toby

I'm just sticking around to see the fun!

Connors

(off stage) Watch the doors, Olancy. Send some men around the back. (enters C D) Stay where you are, you can't get out so you just aswell not try to.



Ollie  
What do you want here?  
Conners  
Maybe you and maybe some one else, you are all under arrest.  
Toby

Met too?

Conners  
Yes you too.

Toby  
Gee wiz I haint done nothing.

Conners  
Shut up! (turns to Ollie) There was a bunch of counterfiedtt money  
sent to this place yesterday, now where is it?

Ollie  
I don't know anything about it. Am I to blame if some of my patrons  
bring counteffite money into my place?

NOTE  
(Toby sees Billie put money in Bob's pocket, he gets it out and tries to hide it but keeps it in his left hand all the time.)

Conners  
Well, it's all right, and I am going to get the fellow that  
gave them the pen.  
He's a crooked & so on. I'd like to see him.

Ollie  
Then find them by all means.

Conners  
That is what I am going to do when I do find them they will get  
twenty years and I am going to search every thing on this place.

Ollie  
Then let me suggest that you start with our friend from Texas.  
You may not have to search any farther.

Conners  
If you on't mind, Friedman, I'll start with you.

Sure go ahead.

Conners  
Put up your hands.

(puts up hands) Go right ahead, Sherlock Holmes. (Conners searches)

Connors  
Nothing on you. (X to Bob) All right you are next.

Bob  
All right, officer, go ahead.

Put your hands up.

Bob  
(puts his hands up), This is the first time I ever put my hands up without hearing the click of a '45.

Conners  
Nothing on you. (Toby starts to run) Say come back here. (Toby obeys) Now get your hands up.

Toby

Gee whix I aint got nothing. (bus) Gee your tickling me. (puts money in Conner's pocket)

Conners  
No hing on you, you're too green to know countefriet money when you see it. (bus) Why what's this? (pulls money from pocket)

Toby  
It looks like a bunch of lettuce don't it?

Conners  
Why that's the counterfeit money I have been looking for.

Toby



are you sure? Toby  
I am positive. Conners  
You couldn't be mistaken? Toby  
"ooo! Conners  
Officer, you are under arrest. (puts hands on Conner's shoulder)  
(loud). Shut up. Conners  
Yes sir. Toby  
Shut up. Conners  
Yes sir. Toby

CURTAIN.



ACT TWO

Toby

(discovered at rise, asleep on settee)

Conners

Say wake up---what are you doing here?

Toby

I am trying to rest---you won't let me out.

Conners

Well, you can't sleep here, get out I want to use this room (X D L)  
I would like to know how that money got in my pocket.

Toby

What would you do with the fellow that put it in your pocket?

Conners

I would give him ten years in prison, that's what I would do.

Toby

It aint against the law, for a fellow to say what he thinks, is it?

Conners

No.

Toby

Well, I don't think you will ever catch him, you are too slow to  
catch a cold unless you left your hat off in a snow storm,

Conners

Say you better be careful how you talk, now get along before some  
one steals your watch.

Toby

No one aint going to steal my watch.

Conners

Why not?

Toby

Because I aint got none. (exits C)

Ollie

(enters L.) Conners, you take your men and get out of here or you  
are going to ruin my place.

Conners

What do I care about your place? I am going to say until I get that  
queer coin, Friedman.

Ollie

I told you I didn't know anything about it.

Conners

I think you do.

Ollie

We may as well speak plainly Conners, you know what kind of protection  
I have. Now take my advice and take your men and get out of here  
or there might be another man promoted to your position.

Conners

Yes I know the kind of protection you got. It is the kind you  
bought, Friedman, but you can't buy me. You would just as soon sell  
the man you bought if you thought you could gain a little by it.

Ollie

At last we have an honest policeman!

Conners

Call it what you lie, but I aim to find the man that brought that  
queer coin here if I have to tear this place down and go through it  
with a fine tooth comb.

Ollie

Conners, if I were you I wouldn't be over zealous in my work.

Conners

No, why?

Ollie

Many men have lost their lives through it. (reaches for drawer)

Conners

(draws gun) Open th



Conners

(draws gun) Open that door, Friedman, and you are a dead man!

Ollie

Surely you don't think---

Conners

I don't have to think---if you try to get that gun out of that drawer, I'll drop you---understand?

Ollie

(bus) Conners, would you take a chance on killing a man?

Conners

You are the one that is taking the chances, Friedman.

Ollie

Have it your way Conners, for far it be it from me to interfere with such a worthy champion of the law, but when you and your flat footed policemen get ready to go you will find the front door wide open, and I will have the door man turn the mat around so it will read "welcome" as you go out. (exit D. L.)

Toby

(enter R. U.) Say, Mister, do you know who put that money in your pocket. (enters R U)

Conners

Yes do you know who it was?

Toby

Yep.

Conners

Who was it then?

Toby

Well you let me go home if I tell you who it was.

Conners

I sure will. Now who was it?

Toby

Meee!

Conners

You---well I'll be damned!

Toby

That's what I said when I split my toe with the hoe.

Conners

Say when did you put it in my pocket?

Bob

(off stage) All right, dear.

Toby

There is some one coming, so come in this room and I'll tell you all about it. (exit with Conners R. U.)

Bob

(enters C D with Ann) Are you sure you don't mind telling Ollie about it?

Ann

No, Bob, it isn't that I care to tell, but the thought of how I have been with Ollie.

Bob

Well as soon as you tell him, we will leave here and start life over anew.

Ann

(Bob and Ann. embrace) I am sure the future will be more pleasant than the past.

Ollie

(enters D L) Say what is the big idea?

Ann

Ollie I---

Ollie

Caught with the goods eh? Well I might as well settle with you right now, Mr. Texas, you may go I want to talk with the young lady.



Bob

I don't believe I will, Mister, unless the young lady wishes it.

Ann

Please go, Mr. Williams, I'll call you if I need you.

Bob

Mister, I want you to know that this young lady promised to be my wife, so don't try any rough stuff on her, for the next time I shoot to kill. (exit C D.)

Ollie

Well?

Ann

Well.

Ollie

What fool arrangements have you made with that fellow?

Ann

We are going to be married.

Ollie

A home and children and that sort of stuff I suppose?

Ann

I didn't know what happiness was until I met him.

Ollie

That listens good, but what about me?

Ann

What do you mean?

Ollie

You know what I mean, you and me, how about the prospects I had for you?

Ann

Did you have prospects for me?

Ollie

Yes. Did you think I was going to let you be a cabaret dancer the rest of your life? I have been trying to get you a showing with Hammersteins for the past year, and only yesterday I almost closed the deal. I will have you on Broadway in less than a year. And in six month's time, you will be famous.

Ann

I am sorry.

Ollie

Sorry, I am not asking for sympathy, I am talking business, and I think you are making the mistake of your life time.

Ann

I don't.

Ollie

Of course you don't. You are in love, that is you think you are.

Ann

I am sure of it! (sits D R.)

Ollie

You were in love once before weren't you?

Ann

No, this is the first time in my life.

Ollie

You told me the same thing a few years ago.

Ann

It is true I did, but I only thought it was love then, but now I am sure of it. But now I am going with him to start life over again and I am going to be a good woman.

Ollie

You've started too late you can't do it, I have seen hundreds try it and they all fail. Sonner or later they were all back to the bright lights.



Ann

It won't be that way with me, Ollie, for I can go straight with him, and you can help me if you will.

Ollie

Me? How?

Ann

By taking my hand and saying "good bye, and good luck"

Ollie

And do you think I will say that?

Ann

Ollie, after all these years that I have been so miserable don't try to depart me of the happiness that life holds for me. Please let me go?

Ollie

No you are going to stay right here with me.

Ann

Ollie, Friedman, if you try to stop me I believe I could kill you.

Bob

(enter C. D.) There aint going to be no killing, Annete.

Ollie

Tell that friend of yours to get out and leave us alone.

Bob

It wouldn't do any good, Mister, for I aim to stay and I'm going to have a long talk with you.

Ollie

I haven't time to have a long talk with anybody, if you have anything to say, get busy.

Bob

Well, you're going to have, and I am asking the young lady to leave the room. I might have to use some cuss words.

Ollie

Now wouldn't that bedreadufl?

Ann

You won't quarell will you,?

Ollie

Will we, Mr. Williams?

Bob

I don't reckon we will.

Ollie

So you see he is perfectly safe. You will find cigarettes in the top drawer.

Ann

Thanks, I don't use them, I have stopped smoking.

Ollie

Wonderful!

Ann

Yes, isn't it? (exit R U.)

Ollie

Well get busy with the cuss words.

Bob

I aim to marry that little girl. Now you start the cuss words!

Ollie

You seem rather confident!

Bob

I have reasons to be

Ollie

Williams I don't mind telling you that little girl in there means more to me than I am going to tell you or any one else, and I am going to keep her in spite of you or any other man!

Bob

You seem rather confident.

Ollie

I have reasons to be.



Bob

I intend to marry that little girl and I don't give damn if you like it or not.

Ollie

Ah, the cuss words have started.

Bob

Be careful Freidman, I know I am in your place, but I am giving you fair warning, so be careful.

Ollie

So you think you are going to marry the girl?

Bob

I don't think it, I know it.

Ollie

Have you any money?

Bob

I don't think that's any of your business, but I don't mind telling you I haven't much.

Ollie

And I don't mind telling you th t you will need some if you aim to keep that little lady in there.

Bob

We are not discussing that.

Ollie

We are going to discuss it. Did you ever stop to think what a fool you were making of yourself?

Bob

Do you think I am?

Ollie

I know that you are. Where do you aim to take her to live?

Bob

To my home in West Texas.

Ollie

Do you think she would be satisfied in West Texas?

Bob

I think she would, Mister.

Ollie

I don't.'. Did you ever stop to think what a life she has been leading the past few years?

Bob

Yes, and I can't say that it gives you very much credit.

Ollie

What do you mean by that?

Bob

I mean we don't have men of your kind where I come from. Some times one gets in on us, but he don't stay long; we usually get rid of him---by the lead route!

Ollie

How many have you gotten rid of?

Bob

None, but I am liable to start any minute.

Ollie

Would you take a chance on killing?

Bob

I think I would, Mister, for her.

Ollie

Before we start the shooting, let me tell you something for your own good. You aim to marry the girl and take her out West. Your intentions are honorable and I give you credit for that, but Ann is a bright light girl. She has lived in them until they are a part of her. Do you think she would trade the city for a small Western burg? Do you think this great love you have to offer her would repay her for the loss of this city---with it's luxuries and pleasures---I



Bob

I say Yes! (bus)

Ollie

Man! This great happiness you picture for yourself, it can't last but just a little while. It always last a little while, but day by day you will notice your wife growing colder and colder toward you. You ill try to fight the thought away from you, but you will finally admit that your wife is not happy in West Texas. Then she will come to you and tell you that her nerves are at the breaking point. When she comes to you and tells you that she must return to the city, the bright lights, and the laughter, the din and the musci, then what will you do?

Bob

I'll sell the ranch and move up here.

Ollie

I see there is no use trying to talk to you, so I am going to tell you in plain words, that she is mine, Mr. Texas, and all mine, and I won't give her up to you or any other man!

Bob

Mister, I have been waiting for you to talk that way.

Ollie

Well, what are you going to do about it?

Bob

You told me the kind of a woman she is, but she beat you to it.

Ollie

She told you, eh?

Bob

Yes, she told me how you took her away from her home how you ruined her life nd her character, and now you call her a bad woman!

Ollie

You wouldn't call her a good woman, would you?

Bob

Yes, a good woman who got off to a bad start. Lured away from her home with the promise of a marriage! And she is not the only one. There are thousands like her. Promise of marriage girls! They ~~are~~ with their lives ruined by dogs like you, but understand, they are not bad but just as you made them!

Ollie

Why damned you I'll---

Bob

Don't stop to swear, Mister, for I am going to give you the whipping that some one should have given you a long time ago.

Ollie

(bus) If you take a step toward me, I'll fire!

Bob

Then start, shooting, Mister, for I am coming over! (start)

Ann

(fires shot, enters with gun in hand)

Bob

(X to Ann) uick give me that gun.

Toby

What's all the darn shooting?

Connors

(in C. D.) who fired that shot? (calls off) Watch the doors, Clancy. (X D R takes gun from Bob) This is the gun that fired the shot. One cylinder empty, and the barell still hot.

Toby

He's a poet by gosh and right on the spot!

Connors

Who shot Ollie Freidman?

Toby

(Tu



Toby  
(runs to C. D.) I'll go and find out for you.  
Conners  
Here, you stay here, you are all under arrest.  
Toby  
What, again or yet?  
Conners  
Both!  
Toby  
Gee whiz! I aint done nothing.  
Conners  
Shut up!  
Toby  
Yes sir!  
Conners  
Shut up!  
Toby  
Yes sir!

CURTAIN.



## ACT THREE

Toby

(discovered with Billy on the settee) Is Mr. Friedman hurt very bad?

Billie

No I don't think so. The Doctor said the bullet hit Ollie from the back and lodged in his left shoulder. Said he got it out and Ollie will be all right in a few days.

Toby

Do you know who shot him?

Billie

Well, maybe I do and maybe I don't.

Toby

Well god darn it if you know, why don't you tell that old defective so I can get out of here. I aint done nothing and I want to go home.

Billie

Connors said no one could leave here until he knew who shot Ollie.

Toby

I am going to get a hay seed corpus.

Billie

Get what?

Billie

A hay seed corpse.

Billie

Do you mean habeas corpus? Well, how are you going to get it?

Billie

Why god darn it, I'll telephone a lawyer.

Billie

(laughs) Oh no you won't for Connors has all the wires cut, and no one is allowed to leave, so you see there is no one to take your message for you.

Toby

Gee th t Connors is a mean old cuss aint he?

Billie

Oh I don't know. He is only doing his duty.

Toby

Well, it aint his duty to keep me here without anything to eat.

Billie

Are you hungry.

Toby

Hungry? I'm so hungry my stomach thinks my throat has joined the I. W. W.'s and gone on a strike.

Billie

Well, come with me to the kitchen and I will see if I can find you something to eat. (both exit D L)

Connors

(in C. D) Send them in one t a time, Williams first. (x to Table)

Bob

(enter C. D.) Did you wish to see me, Mister?

Connors

Yes sit down. (bus) Where do you live?

Bob

On a ranch just out of Midland West Texas.

Connors

What are you doing here?

Bob

I came up here on some cattle business.

Connors

And after you finished your business you started out to see the bright lights, is that it?

B



Bob

Yes.

Conners

How many times have you visited this place?

Bob

Several times.

Conners

Any special reason for coming here?

Bob

Yes.

Conners

What were they?

Bob

I don't care to answer that.

Conners

Well, you are going to answer it. Why did you come here so often?

Bob

I said that I didn't care to answer that.

Conners

Then may be SHE Will tell me.

Bob

(jumps up, mgyr) You leave her alone or I'll---

Conners

So it is a woman? I thought so---which one?

Bob

Miss Annette.

Conners

Do you know who shot Friedman?

Bob

Yes.

Conners

Who was it it?

Bob

Me!

Conners

Why did you shoot him?

Bob

We had some words about Miss Annette, she wanted to leave here with me, and he wouldn't let her go, so I shot him! (bus with fist)

Conners

Steady!

Bob

I shot him and I meant to kill him. Write that in your report and read it to the Judge and jury. I mean to kill him.

Conners

What size gun did you shoot him with?

Bob

A '38!

Conners

Do you boys from Texas usually carry a thirty eight?

Bob

No, we usually carry a forty five.

Conners

How did you happen to have a thirty eight?

Bob

My forty five was too heavy to tote around, so I just slipped that little old thirty eight in my pocket, I was afraid I would meet some hold up men.

Conners

Where was Friedman standing when you shot him?

Bob

About where



Bob  
About where you found him.

Conners  
Where were you standing?

Bob  
Over the --over there

Conners  
Then pardon me for a ying, but that was a poor shot for a man at such close range.

Bob,  
I guess my hand wasn't very steady.

Conners  
Did Friedman draw a gun?

Bob  
Yes. I drew a little nicker that's all.

Conners  
The bullet hit Friedman in the left shoulder.

Bob  
Did it?

Conners  
Yes---Now Friedman was shot from behind. I suppose that when he saw you had the drop on him, he started to run?

Bob  
Yes, that's it!

Conners  
(bus) Then you shot him in the back! And you are the first man from Texas that ever ~~set~~ did that unless he was high jacker or a thief.

Bob  
What do you mean?

Conners  
That you have been telling me a fairy story that any correspondence school detective could see through without the aid of a spy glass. And the funny part of it is that you thought you were getting away with it! (laughs)

Bob  
Well, you asked me what I had to say, and I said it. (exit-B-R)-

Toby  
(enters L. U.) I'll tell you all about it.

Conners  
Do you know anything about it?

Toby  
Yes sir.

Conners  
Do you know who shot Friedman?

Toby  
Yes sir.

Conners  
Are you lying to me?

Toby  
Yes sir!

Conners  
What?

Toby  
I mean no sir!

Conners  
Well, who shot him?

Toby  
MEER!

Conners  
Oh good Lord---you shot Friedman?

Toby  
Yes sir.



Conners

Why did you shoot him?

Toby

I heard him and Annie fassin', Annie wanted to leave here and he wouldn't let her, so I dough popped him! (bus)

Conners

(push Toby out C. D.) Here, Clancy, keep Mr Yes sir, out there.

Toby

Oh gosh pinched again! Say, have you got anything to eat out here?  
(exit C. D.)

Conners

There is some one around here who knows who did that shooting and somebody better start talking.

Ann

(enters R. U.) I can tell you who done it.

Bob

Don't tell him anything, Annette.

Conners

You shut up. You had your say now let her havhersM

Ann

Yes, I am going to tell him all.

Conners

Do you know who shot Friedman?

Ann

Yes.

Conners

Who was it?

Ann

I did.

Conners

Oh lord here is another one.

Bob

No it wasn't her.

Conners C

Haven't you any manners---disputing a ladie's word like that? Is th  
this the gun you shot him with?

Ann

(bus) Yes.

Conners

Where did you get this gun?

Ann

In the inner office---off the safe.

Conners

What were you doing in the inner office.

Ann

Ollie and Mr. Williams wanted to talk, and so Ollie asked me to go i  
in there.

Conners

Just why did you shoot Friedman?

Ann

I heard them talking very loud you see I wanted to go away from  
here ith Mr. Williams and didn't want me to go, I know that when Ollie  
was angry he was a dangerous man. So I took the gun off the safe  
and stepped to the door just in time to see Friedman take a gun  
out of the drawer and start to shoot Mr. Williams. I raised the gun  
I held and fired.

Conners

Is that the truth?

Ollie

(enters L. U.)

Ann

Yes.



Ollie

No it isn't, Conners.

Conners

Friedman, I thought and cetro told you to stay in bed?

Ollie

So he did, but I couldn't help hearing the conversatinn that was taking place in this room. (sits R. of table)

Conners

This woman told me she shot you. Is that right?

Ollie

No, she doesn't even know how to fire a gun.

Conners

I knew it---so you did do it?

Bob

Yes.

Ollie

Do what?

Conners

It was Williams who shot you.

Ollie

Not, it wasn't Williams.

Conners

You say it wasn't her and you say it wasn't Williams, then who the devil did do it?

Ollie

I did!

Conners

WAHT??????

Ollie

I said I shot myself.

Conners

Say what are you trying to do, kid me? I know I'm no real detective I am no Nick Carter, or Sherlock Holmes, and as far as physcholgy is concerned, I wouldn't know it if I found it in the streets, but there is one thing I do know and that is that two of you are the biggest liars in Chicago!

Ollie

I have told you the truth.

Conners

That's what they all say!

Ollie

You see, Conners, it was like this; Mr Williams and I were having an argument over Annette. I lost my head for a minute and pulled my gun. Then Williams closed in on me and in the shuffle the gun was accidentally discharged and the bullet lodged in my shoulder. That couldn't happen very easy now couldn't it, Conners?

Conners

Yes it could---but how did the gun happen to be in William's hand?

Ollie

I can explain that very easy too. You see in his excitement, Mr. Williams picked the gun up off the floor.

Conners

You missed your calling, Friedman; you should have been a lawyer.

Ollie

We may as well understand each other, Conners. Now I don't intend to file a charge against any one, but if you care to do so, go right ahead, but I'm giving you warning, if this case comes to trial and I am called as a witness I will tell the same story there as I have here. Now how about it, Conners?

Conners

You win----I may never find out who shot you, but there is another



matter we haven't settled yet.

Ollie

What is that?

Connors

That counterfeit money.

Ollie

I had all most forgotten that.

Connors

Well I haven't.

Ollie

You have the goods, haven't you?

Connors

Yes right here. (taps pocket)

Ollie

That is where you found it isn't it Connors?

Connors

You know that.

Ollie

I wonder what the chief would say if he knew that some smooth guy slipped some user coin in one of his detective's pockets?

Connors

Say---

Ollie

Connors, you know you can't prove a single charge against any one. Why don't you forget all about this? No. I'll make a bargain with you. If you will forget all about this and let it stand as it is, I'll close this place up for good, I will give you my word of honor that the men that made the user coin will be so far away from Chicago in a week that you couldn't find them in a year.

Connors

Will you do that?

Ollie

I will even do more than that, I will get you all the bad money that has been made, and I will chase the men that made it at the same time

Connors

I am going to take a chance on you, but remember if you double cross me, I will get you.

Ollie

You can depend on me. (X to Ann) Good bye, Annette, and good luck.

Ann

Do you mean that, Ollie?

Ollie

Yes, you deserve it.

Ann

Thanks, Ollie, and good bye. (bus X to C. B.)

Ollie

Good bye, Mr. Williams, and take good care of the little girl.

Bob

You bet I will. Good bye, Friedman. (X to Ann)

Ann

(X to Ollie) I want to thank you again, Ollie.

Ollie

Don't mention it, kid.

Bob and Ann

(exit C. D.)

Connors

You still got me worried, Friedman.

Ollie

You don't need to worry, Connors, for I told you I was going to help you and I am going to do it. Of course you know that I will not



who those men are, but I will do this; I will go to these men and tell them that the bulls are wise to them, and give them my advice to make a ucik get away, then after they are gone a few hours I will come to you and tell you where the place was. Then you can take a bunch of men and swoop down on them and make a name for yourself.

Conners

Friedman, do you know why I accepted your proposition?

Ollie

No, why?

Conners

Because I wanted to see that little girl go to West Texas.

Ollie

Conners, you're a regular fellow. (shakes hands)

Conners

Yes, but I'm a hell of a policeman. (shakes hands)

Toby

(enter C. D.) Say when do I get to go home?

Conners

Do you want to go home?

Toby

Yes sir.

Conners

Right now?

Toby

Yes sir.

Conners

(pulls gun) Then get the hell out!

Toby

(runs out C. D. as the CURTAIN FALLS)

THE  
END.